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527 CMR: BOARD OF FIRE PREVENTION REGULATIONS

527 CMR 28.00: COMBUSTIBLE FIBERS

Section

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28.01: Scope

527 CMR 28.00 applies to the storage of combustible fibers.

28.02: Definitions

For the purpose of 527 CMR 28.00, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them:

Baled Combustible Fibers: Fibers which have been suitably wrapped and bound or otherwise packaged.

Combustible Fiber: Any readily ignitable and free-burning fiber including but not limited to materials such as cotton, sisal, henequen, ixtle, jute, hemp, tow, cocoa fiber, oakum, baled waste, baled waste paper, kapok, hay, straw, Spanish moss, excelsior, certain synthetic fibers and cloth in the form of scraps and clippings.

Loose Combustible Fibers: Fibers which are not in suitable bales or packages.

28.03: Storage

- (1) In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 148, § 13, the Board hereby prescribes that a permit for the storage and handling of combustible fibers in quantities in excess of 100 cubic feet shall be obtained from the head of the fire department as provided by M.G.L. c. 148, § 10A. No permit shall be required for agricultural storage.
- (2) Loose combustible fibers, whether housed or in the open, shall not be stored in or within 100 feet of any building, except as provided for below:
 - (a) Not more than 100 cubic feet of loose combustible fibers kept in any building shall be stored in a metal or metal-lined bin equipped with a self-closing cover.
 - (b) Quantities exceeding 100 cubic feet of loose combustible fibers, but not exceeding 500 cubic feet, shall be stored in rooms or compartments having floors, walls and ceilings with a fire resistance rating of not less than one hour. Each opening into such rooms or compartments from other parts of the building shall be equipped with an approved opening protective. Such fire resistance rated assemblies shall comply with the applicable requirements of the State Building Code.
 - (c) Quantities exceeding 500 cubic feet of loose combustible fibers shall be stored in rooms constructed in accordance with the requirements of the State Building Code.
 - (d) A maximum of 2,500 feet of loose fibers shall be stored in a detached "loose house" suitable located with openings properly against entrance of sparks. The "loose house" shall not be used for any other purpose.
- (3) The storage of baled combustible fibers shall comply with the following requirements:
 - (a) A single block or pile shall not contain more than 7,200 cubic feet of fiber exclusive of aisles or clearances.
 - (b) Blocks or piles shall be separated from adjacent storage by aisles not less than five feet wide, or by flash fire barriers consisting of continuous sheet of noncombustible material extending from floor to a height of at least one foot above the highest point of piles and projecting at least one foot beyond the sides of the piles.

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28.03: continued

(c) Sisal and other fibers in bales bound with combustible tie ropes, and also jute and other fibers liable to swell when wet, shall be stored to allow for expansion in any direction without endangering building walls, ceilings or columns. Not less than three feet clearance shall be left between walls and sides of piles, except that if the storage compartment is not more than 30 feet in width, one foot clearance will be sufficient, providing a center aisle not less than five feet wide is maintained.

(d) A minimum clearance of three feet shall be maintained between the sprinklers and tops of piles.

(4) The storage of hay, straw or other similar agricultural products shall comply with the following requirements:

(a) No person shall store hay, straw or similar agricultural products adjacent to buildings or combustible material unless a cleared horizontal distance equal to the height of a pile is maintained between such storage and combustible material and buildings.

(b) Storage shall be limited to stacks of 100 tons each.

(c) Quantities of hay, straw and other agricultural products shall not be limited where stored in or near farm buildings located outside closely-built areas.

(5) Ashes, waste, rubbish or sweepings shall not be kept in wooden or other combustible receptacles in combustible fiber storage areas and shall be removed from the premises daily. Grass and weeds shall not be allowed to accumulate at any point on the premises.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

527 CMR 28.00: M.G.L. c. 148, §10.